

CLERK: Mr. President, LR 319 was introduced by Senator Coordsen and a number of the members. It asks the Legislature to encourage the Congress of the United States to consider an amendment to the United States Constitution, to be ratified by the states, specifying that Congress and the states shall have the power to prohibit the physical desecration of the flag of the United States. The resolution was introduced on February 23 of this this year, Mr. President. It may be found on page 825 of the Legislative Journal.

SPEAKER WITHEM: Senator Coordsen, you are recognized for introduction of LR 319.

SENATOR COORDSEN: Thank you, Mr. Speaker, and members of the body, LR...the contents of LR 319 have been before the Legislature in one form or another for quite a number of years, most recently, in the form of LR 16 which was heard last year and advanced to the floor by the Government Committee. In conversation with other members of the body earlier this session, it was apparent that the form of LR 16 which memorialized Congress or petitioned Congress to consider for presentation to the states a constitutional amendment for ratification that would, in fact, provide some sort of recognition of constitutional protection for the emblem of our country, would, in fact, have to be treated as a bill on the floor of the Legislature, go through the three stages of debate and certainly have the potential of taking up a considerable amount of time on the floor of the Legislature. As a result of that conversation, we were...spent a good part of the month of January in investigation of what language might be appropriate so that this resolution would, in fact, be in the form of a legis...of a legislative resolution and not of the form that would be, in fact, petitioning Congress and demanding action on their part. I have distributed to you a copy of this resolution and I think it would be appropriate at this time that we turn to the second page and read for yourself Section 1 of the be resolved, "That the Legislature encourages the Congress of the United States to consider an amendment to the United States Constitution, to be ratified by the states, specifying that Congress and the states shall have the power to prohibit the physical desecration of the flag of the United States." This is an issue that has adamant opposition as well as those who adamantly support it. It has been an issue of some importance for our veterans service organizations for a large number of years. Certainly both the American Legion and the VFW, and